

Message Text

PAGE 01 BUENOS 07395 052327Z

71-60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SNM-02 EUR-25 EB-11 SCI-06

AID-20 DRC-01 /191 W

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P 052221Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3864

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 467

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7395

USUN FOR ASST SECRETARY KUBISCH

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR LODGES CALL ON PRES-ELECT PERON

1. SUMMARY: ON THE EVENING OF OCT 4 I RECEIVED A CALL FROM MININT AND ACTING FONMIN LLAMBI AT THE RESIDENCE INFORMING ME THAT I HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRES-ELECT PERON AT 10:00 THE NEXT MORNING OCT 5. I APPEARED AT THE APPOINTED HOUR AND REMAINED WITH THE GENERAL AND LLAMBI FOR 25 MINUTES. IT WAS A FAREWELL CALL AND IT WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND TOUCHED ON A VARIETY OF MATTERS. PERON IMPRESSED ME AS BEING ENTIRELY LUCID, UTTERLY CHARMING, AND FAR MORE VIGOROUS AND HEALTHY IN APPEARANCE THAN SOME OTHER RECENT REPORTS HAVE SUGGESTED. THERE WAS NOT ONE UNTOWARD MOMENT.

2. ON ARRIVAL AT GASPAR CAMPOS IN COMPANY OF EMBOFF, I WAS SURPRISED BY ABSENCE OF MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO NORMALLY MILL ABOUT PERON RESIDENCE. SECURITY POST LOCATED AT STREET CORNER AND MANNED BY APPROXIMATELY 6 UNIFORMED POLICEMEN WHO CHECKED OUR IDENTITY BEFORE ALLOWING US ACCESS TO STREET.
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 07395 052327Z

SECURITY AT RESIDENCE ITSELF WAS APPARENTLY LIGHT.

INSIDE THE HOUSE ONLY ONE

STAFF MEMBER, JUAN ESCUER, WHO IS CHIEF OF PERONS SECURITY GURARDS

AND WHO APPARENTLY DOUBLES AS TELEPHONE RECEPTIONIST WAS IN

SIGHT.

3. GENERAL PERON RECEIVED ME WARMLY ON FRONT STEPS OUTSIDE HOUSE ACCOMPANIED BY LLAMBI AND USHERED ME INTO INTIMATE FIRST FLOOR LIVINGROOM. EMBOFF DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN MEETING BUT WAITED IN SMALL ADJOINING ROOM WHICH IS PERONS OFFICE. INDEED PERON I WAS TOLD HAD SUGGESTED EARLIER TO LLAMBI THAT HE NEED NOT COME TO GASPAR CAMPOS FOR THE MEETING AS HE PERON WOULD FEEL PERFECTLY COMFORTABLE RECEIVING ME ALONE. LLAMBI DID, HOWEVER ATTEND AND SAT IN ON MEETING. MY WIFE HAD MET WITH ISABLE ON SEPT 13 (BA 6816).

4. I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OPPORTUNITY TO SAY GOODBYE TO HIM BEFORE LEAVING ARGENTINA WHICH AFTER MORE THAN 4 YEARS AS AMBASSAOR I HAD LEARNED TO LOVE. MY WIFE AND I HAD PASSED INTERESTING AND ENJOYALBLE YEARS IN THIS GREAT COUNTRY AND WE LEAVE BEHIND MANY WONDERFUL ARGENTINE FRIENDS. I SAID THAT I HOPED TO SEE PRESIDENT NIXON UPON MY RETURN AND WOULD BE GLAD TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO HIM. PERON ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT NIXON HIS PERONAL WISHES FOR PRESIDENT NIXON'S SUCCESS IN HIS SECOND TERM. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE PRESENT FRIENDLY UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND ARGENTINA WOULD CONTINUE IN ENSUING YEARS AND RECALLED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS WHICH EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WHEN BOTH HE AND PRESIDENT EISENHOWER WERE CHIEF EXECUTIVES. PERON PROFESSED GREAT ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER.

5. PERON EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR PRESIDENT NIXONS PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT CHIEFS OF STATE WERE BEING INCREASINGLY ATTACKED FRONTALLY. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE WATERGATE PROBLEM CAME FROM THE PENTAGON. I DISABUSED HIM OF THAT NOTION.

6. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK PERON FOR GOA'S CONTINUING COOPERATION IN THE WAR ON DRUGS. I NOTED THAT ARGENTINE YOUTH IN GENERAL HAD NOT YET BEEN POISONED BY THIS PLAGUE TO DEGREE OUR YOUTHS HAVE. ACCEPTING MY EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE, PRESIDENT ELECT REMARKED THAT CONTINUED VIGILANCE AND EFFORTS WERE REQUIRED
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PAGE 03 BUENOS 07395 052327Z

IN ARGENTINA IN THIS AREA FOR ARGENTINE YOUTH MIGHT WELL FALL VICTIM TO THE SAME TRAGEDY.

7. PERON DWELT ON SUBJECT OF COMMUNISM, TROTSKYISM, AND TERRORISM. HE DESCRIBED COMMUNISM AS NOTHING MORE THAN STATE CAPITALISM AND REITERATED THE VERY STRONG ANTIPATHY TOWARD TROTSKYISM HE HAD EXPRESSED TWO DAYS AGO AT PUBLICIZED MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS. AGAIN HE ASSERTED THAT INTERNATIONAL TROTSKYITE MOVEMENT WAS BEING RUN OUT OF PARIS FROM AN OFFICE ON 48 RUE DE LA POUPEE. I CONGRATULATED HIM ON STRONG POSITION HE HAD ADOPTED AGAINST TERRORISM AND MARXISM AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT NO CHIEF OF STATE COULD TOLERATE KIND OF DIRECT CHALLENGE TO HIS AUTHORITY WHICH ARGENTINE TERRORITS HAVE POSED IN RECENT

MONTHS. PERON HEARTILY AGREED.

8. I COMMENTED ON FACT THAT CASTRO SEEMED TO SURVIVE IN SPITE OF CATASTROPHIC CONDITIONS IN CUBA. HE SAID THAT CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA ARE NOT SO GOOD EITHER.

9. ON MORE PHILOSOPHICAL SUBJECT OF CHANGING PATTERNS OF MANKINDS SOCIAL ORGANIZATION IN RECENT CENTURIES, PERON EXPLAINED HIS THEORY THAT THE NATION STATE, WHICH HAD REPLACED FEUDALISM, WAS NOW IN PROCESS OF GRADUAL EVOLUTION INTO FORM OF ORGANIZATION HE CALLED CONTINENTALISM. HE DESCRIBED THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET, NORTH AMERICA, AND LATIN AMERICA AS HAVING ARRIVED AT DIFFERENT STAGES IN THIS PROCESS WHICH IN TURN WILL LEAD INEVITABLY TOWARD UNIVERSALISM. UNIVERSALISM, OR THE RETURN TO THE CONCEPT OF ONE EARTH FOR ALL MEN PERON OPINED WAS MANKINDS ONLY ULTIMATE SALVATION FROM GROWING WORLD FOOD DEFICITS AND POLLUTION. IN THIS CONNECTION HE EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT. IN VIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS WE AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM OR TIME FOR VIOLENCE. I SAID THAT MAN SEEMED INCLINED TO DESTROY WITH HIS EVIL GENIUS WHAT HE CREATES WITH HIS GENIUS. HE LIKED THAT STATEMENT AND EXPRESSED AGREEMENT.

10. I TOOK WHAT I THOUGHT WAS THE APPROPRIATE INITIATIVE TO TERMINATE THE CONVERSATION AFTER 25 MINUTES. PERON LED ME FROM THE SITTING ROOM INTO HIS OFFICE WHEN HE INTRODUCED ME TO HIS WIFE, WHO HAD BEEN CHATTING WITH EMBOFF. MRS PERON RE-CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BUENOS 07395 052327Z

LATED HOW ENORMOUSLY PLEASED SHE HAD BEEN WITH MY WIFES CALL ON HER TWO WEEKS AGO. BOTH PERONS AND MIN LLAMBI THEN ACCOMPANIED ME TO THE DOOR. THE GENERAL GAVE ME AN ABRAZO AND SAID THAT I WOULD ALWAYS BE WELCOME IN ARGENTINA. HE WALKED WITH ME ALONE TO THE SIDEWALK AND WAVED FAREWELL.

11. COMMENT: THERE WERE NO APPARENT SIGNS OF PHYSICAL DETERIORATION IN PERON. HIS COLORING WAS GOOD. FOR YEARS HE HAS HAD POCKMARKS UNDER THE EYES. HE IS LEAN AND SLIGHTLY STOOPED. HIS GRIP WAS FIRM, HIS EYES CLEAR, AND HIS WALK STEADY. IN FACT I COMPLIMENTED HIM ON HIS HEALTHY APPEARANCE.

12. I WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY PERONS EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD THE US AND PRESIDENT NIXON AND TOUCHED BY HIS PARTICULARLY WARM GESTURES AND WORDS TO ME. I CAME AWAY FROM THE MEETING WITH THE CONVICTION THAT PERON IS WELL AWARE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL COMMON INTERESTS AND CHALLENGES THAT BIND OUR TWO NATIONS. HE IS OF COURSE AN ASTUTE RESOURCEFUL AND LARGELY UNPREDICTABLE POLITICIAN AND A CHARMER CAPABLE OF PLAYING BOTH ENDS AGAINST THE MIDDLE OF ALMOST ANY ISSUE OR SITUATION. WE SHOULD BE ON OUR GUARD. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM REGARDING THE FUTURE OF ARGENTINA. THE UPCOMING PERIOD WILL UNDOUBTEDLY

BE DIFFICULT, BUT WITH SKILLFUL AND SENSITIVE DIPLOMACY WE
SHOULD BE ABLE TO WORK WITH PERON AND HIS ADMINISTRATION.

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